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20 February 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Laos/Cambodia Ad Hoc Collection Task
Force Meeting -- 19 February 1970

1. Mr. Carver opened the meeting by informing the committee that he had cabled an informal memorandum to CINCPAC J-2, General Keegan, and MACV J-2, General Potts, outlining the problem at hand and inviting their participation at the appropriate time.

2. The next order of business was a call for general comments about the drafts that had been submitted by the three subcommittees. First to be taken was the U-2 Feasibility Working Group. The principal objection to this paper was raised by [] who indicated there seemed to be technical problems associated with the receivers to be used [] as to their non-selectivity, which ought to be explored. [] further indicated that NSA felt the subcommittee had gone beyond its charter to explore other alternatives to improve the collection effort against the GDRS, i.e., [] This was rebutted by the Air Force representative [] Lt. Col. Grant, who indicated that the group interpreted its mission as being one that should explore beyond what is currently being done and that included considering new hardware or expansion of existing programs.

3. Mr. Carver indicated that the [] Group should re-draft and expand their initial submission and should focus on the [] as a possible platform. This group should also give a hard look at what the returns will be from the [] collection and whether the returns would justify the program. NSA objected to the Chairman's proposal, it was duly noted. NSA's principle objection was that it was their prerogative to explore the areas to be looked into by the [] Feasibility Group. NSA feels that there will be problems on the ground with any large non-selective volume of taped material because human transcribers will still have to listen to it and there apparently is a shortage of these transcribers.

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5. The report of sub-committee dealing with the problems associated with movements of material was considered next. The report was well received. The DCPG representative indicated that their submission to an earlier meeting on this problem should be appended in toto to the sub-committee's report.

6. Mr. Carver requested that the expanded/modified reports should be in his hands by 26 February. Coordination may perhaps be accomplished without having to call another meeting. The record submission should provide enough material from which to generate the first draft of the paper which will go forward to Dr. Kissinger. With luck, no more than two cuts will be needed before a final paper can be drafted on which all parties, including CINCPAC and MACV, can concur.

7. Mr. Carver indicated before closing the meeting that the community has a golden opportunity to put before the White House a paper which will spell out clearly, for perhaps the first time, the collective community view of what the problems are in monitoring the flow of men and material to SVN. Additionally, it will allow the community to present a clear-cut set of solutions to the problem and the price tags for them.

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